

Over the years, telephone intrusions by telemarketers and other businesses described by the intruders as 'courtesy calls' have become infuriating. Telemarketing is harassment. It is aggressive and intrusive. The use of the telephone as a marketing tool should be banned completely. The potential recipients of such calls must be able to absolutely prevent such calls. The existing regulations that ban the use of the telephone by individuals as an instrument of harassment illegal should apply as well to telemarketers.

It is unfortunate that the FCC has changed, since its creation, from an agency serving the best interests of the general population to an agent of business interests. The FCC should be supporting the strongest laws guarding against the use of public communication media for harassment, not undermining them. In the present case, it is outrageous that the FCC is backing a measure that has such a potential for reducing the quality of life.

Many millions of people have voiced protests over the actions of telemarketers. They have expressed their wishes to have their privacy protected by legislation. Their state governments have seen fit to respond to these protects by appropriate measures. The FCC must not undermine these measures in response to the pressure of lobbyists or government figures beholdng to lobbyists.